

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-515

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House  
and/or common \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 11047 Worcester Highway not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Berlin vicinity of x congressional district First  
state Maryland 21811 county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Accessible	
<u>   </u> district	<u>   </u> public	<u>   </u> yes/restricted	<u>   </u> military
<u>  x  </u> building(s)	<u>  x  </u> private	<u>  x  </u> yes/unrestrict.	<u>   </u> museum
<u>   </u> structure	<u>   </u> both	<u>   </u> no	<u>   </u> park
<u>   </u> site	Status	Present Use	<u>  x  </u> private res.
<u>   </u> object	<u>  x  </u> occupied	<u>   </u> agriculture	<u>   </u> religious
Public	<u>   </u> unoccupied	<u>   </u> commercial	<u>   </u> scientific
Acquisition	<u>   </u> in progress	<u>   </u> educational	<u>   </u> transport.
<u>   </u> in progress		<u>   </u> entertainment	<u>   </u> other: _____
<u>   </u> being considered		<u>   </u> government	
<u>  x  </u> not applicable		<u>   </u> industrial	

4. Owner of Property

name Linda Lynch Tingle  
street & number 10804 Worcester Highway tele. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Berlin state & zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court  
- Worcester County Courthouse  
street & number West Market Street  
city, town Snow Hill state MD zip code 21863  
liber WCL 988 folio 210

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_  
date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_  
depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

(date \_\_\_\_\_)

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House is a detached, single-family dwelling located on the west side of US 113, approximately .3 miles north of MD 90. The two-story, side-gabled building, constructed in ca. 1910, features a symmetrical east facade with three bays. The frame structure is covered with vinyl siding, exhibits a composition asphalt shingle roof, and rests on a foundation of concrete block.

The east facade is noted by a one-story, shed-roofed porch. Tax records state that prior to ca. 1979, the porch was supported by wrought iron columns, which most likely replaced the original supports. At present, the porch is supported by a framework of wood studs (WCTA 1998). The tax records also note that the vinyl siding was applied in ca. 1979. Window openings on all sides of the dwelling contain modern one-over-one, double-hung sash. A one-story, shed-roofed addition extends off the rear of the house. This addition was formerly an open porch that was infilled and extended to the north in ca. 1979 (WCTA 1998). The dwelling also exhibits exposed rafter tails at the cornice and a central brick chimney at the roof ridge.

The property contains no outbuildings. A dirt drive provides access to and from US 113, and the property features a few mature trees and ornamental shrubs.

Alterations to the dwelling include the vinyl siding, the later front porch supports, the infilling and extension of the rear porch, the modern window sash, and the likely loss of historic outbuildings.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehist.	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-hist.	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> music	

Specific Dates      unknown      Builder/Architect      unknown

check:      Applicable Criteria:      and/or Applicable Exception:      Level of Significance:

<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> national
<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> state
<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> local
<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> D		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House survives as an example of an early twentieth century vernacular form with antecedents in the nineteenth century. Its presence illustrates the continued development of Worcester County and the immediate locale in the early part of this century, when truck farming was replacing older agricultural models and new fruit and vegetable crops were on the rise (Touart 1994:165-167; Truitt and Les Callette 1977:249, 253-255). It also illustrates the growth and prosperity that could be achieved in agriculture that would allow the construction of a substantial tenant farmhouse. The use of tenant farmers in the region had been in common practice since the Civil War and emancipation (Touart 1994:121).

The dwelling was constructed in ca. 1910, based on deed records as well as inspection of the building itself, which appears to be of early twentieth century origin. The house presently sits on the same tax parcel as the William R. Powell House (WO-514), constructed in ca. 1870, and is described in tax records as a tenant house (WCTA 1998). It is highly probable that the dwelling functioned as the tenant house for the farm headquartered at the Powell House. James E. and Hettie M. Thomas owned the property containing the Powell House at least as early as 1917, owing to the fact that they prepared wills that year outlining the eventual transfer of their real and personal estate to their children (WCCC Deed Book CWN 9:381). It is a safe assumption that the Thomases owned the property prior to the writing of their wills; therefore, they likely were responsible for the construction of the tenant house. Further research of deeds has not revealed a clear owner of the property immediately prior to the Thomases.

See Continuation Sheet.

Using the periods from the Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data, this would place the resource in the Industrial/Urban Dominance period (A.D. 1870-1930). The current legal tax parcel containing the Powell House and the tenant house encompasses 5.07 acres. The amount of land devoted solely to the tenant house and its yard encompasses approximately 1.57 acres of the total.

The James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House is recommended ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60.4. Its integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling has been compromised by alterations. It has no known associations with significant historical events (Criterion A) or persons (Criterion B), it is not significant for its architectural style or design characteristics (Criterion C), and further research of it would not appear to yield information important in prehistory or history (Criterion D).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E
<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Comments: _____	
_____	
_____	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 10/9/98
Reviewer, NR program <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 9/1/99

*[Signature]*

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See Continuation Sheet.

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of nominated property 1.57 ac.

Quadrangle name Selbyville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References - do not complete UTM references

A                       
Zone Easting Northing

B                       
Zone Easting Northing

C                     

D                     

E                     

F                     

G                     

H                     

Verbal boundary description and justification

Portion of 5.07-acre Legal Tax Parcel belonging to house (=1.57 acres;  
3.5 acres go with WO-514) (Map 15, Parcel 236, Lot 2)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county  
boundaries

state        code        county        code       

state        code        county        code       

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title M. Todd Cleveland, Senior Preservation Planner

organization TRC Garrow Associates Inc. date 9/28/98

street & number 3772 Pleasantdale Rd., Ste. 200 tele. (770)270-1192

city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30340-4214

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act  
of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of  
Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record  
purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual  
property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
514-7600

Touart, Paul Baker

1994 *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Worcester County Commissioners, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Truitt, Reginald V., and Millard G. Les Callette

1977 *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*. Worcester County Historical Society, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Clerk of Court (WCCC)

1887-1996 Property records on file at the Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Tax Assessor (WCTA)

1998 Tax assessment records on file at the Worcester County Tax Assessor's Office, Snow Hill, Maryland.

James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House  
Worcester County, Maryland

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

- 1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

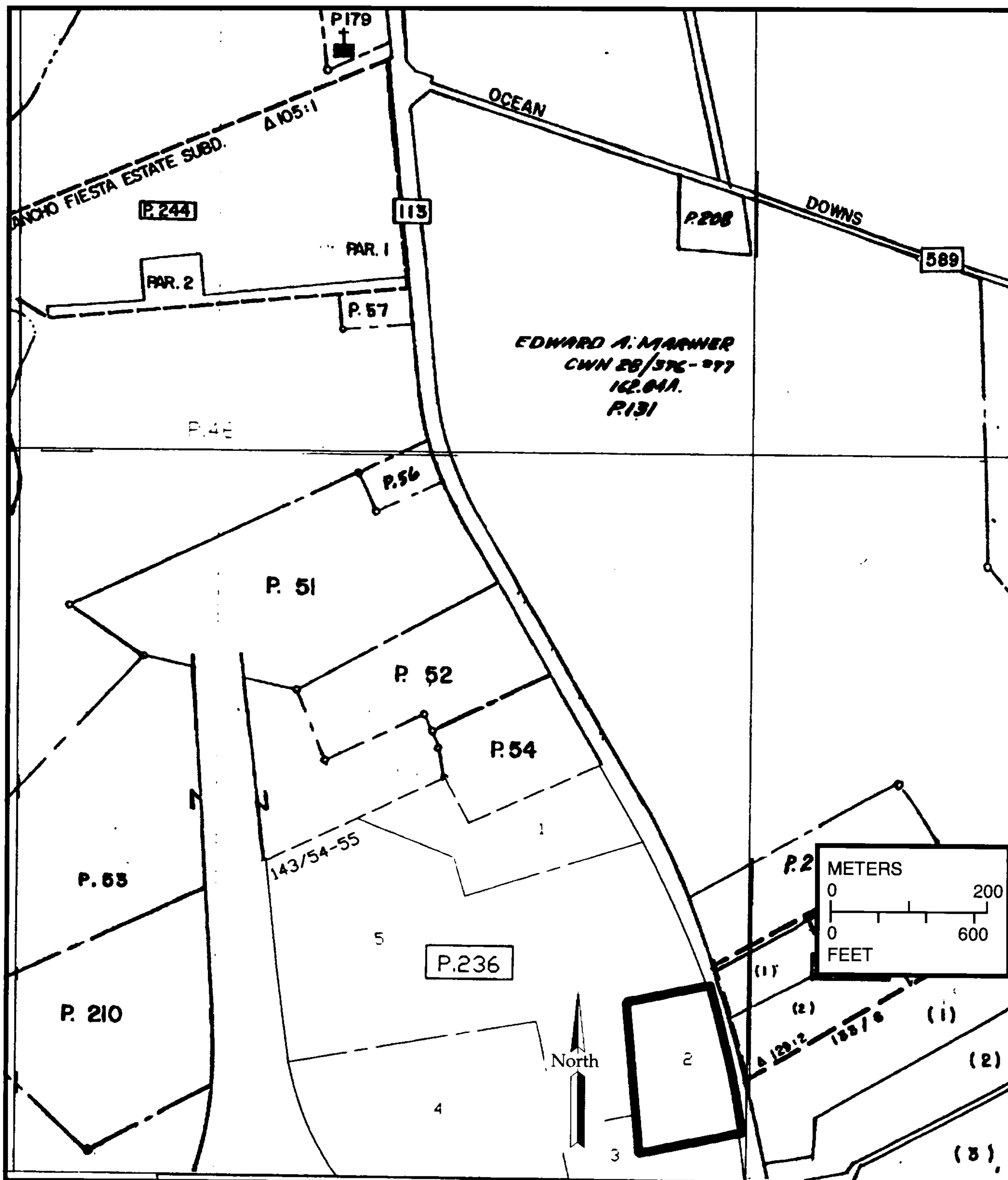
- 11) Industrial/Urban Dominance (A.D. 1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Architecture

Resource Type:

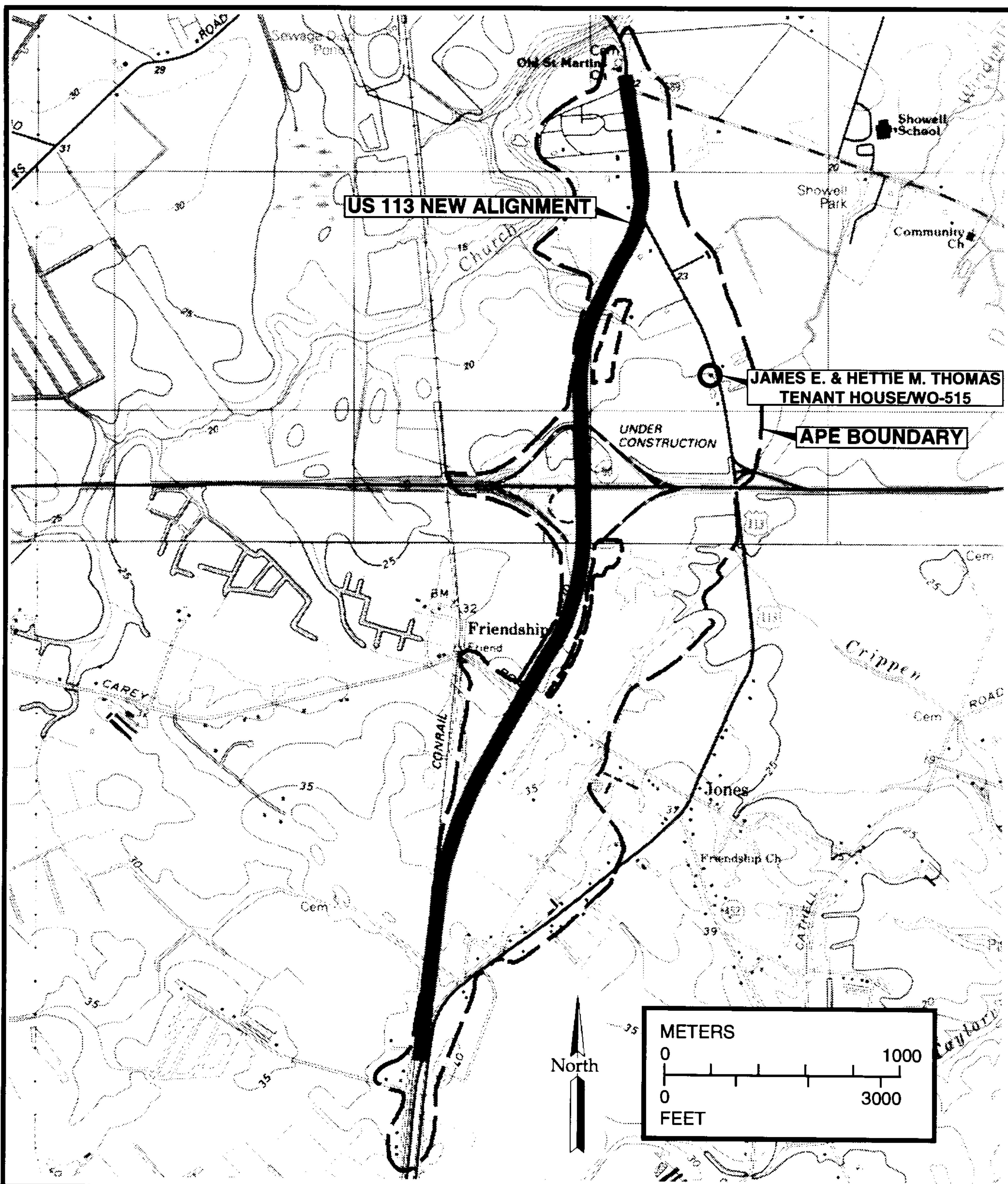
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Single-family Dwelling; Tenant Farmstead
Known Design Source:	None



# TAX MAP

Section of Map No. 15, Parcel No. 236, Worcester County, Md.  
 Containing the James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House/WO-515  
 Lot 2, Berlin (vic.), Worcester County, MD.





### LOCATIONAL MAP

Section of the 7.5' Selbyville, Del.-MD/Berlin, MD Quad Map (USGS 1992/1967-1981)

Showing the James E. & Hettie M. Thomas Tenant House/WO-515

Worcester County, MD.





Worcester County, N.Y. (1900-1901)  
(1900-1901)

000 ZZ+3/4-1/1 /1-1/1 /1/1 1/1 < >

Worcester County, N.Y.

Mark Chancellor - first paper

1900-1901

1900-1901 - 1900-1901

1900-1901 - 1900-1901

1900-1901



